

H. R. 174.

APRIL 20, 1822.

Read twice, and committed to a committee of the whole House
on the state of the Union.

DECEMBER 9, 1822.

Reprinted by order of the House of Representatives.

A BILL

Concerning the disbursement of Public Money.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That,*
3 *from and after the passing of this act, no advance of public*
4 *money shall be made in any case whatever; but, in all cases*
5 *of contracts for the performance of any service, or the deli-*
6 *very of articles of any description, for the use of the United*
7 *States, payment shall be made only in proportion to the ser-*
8 *vice rendered, or to the value of articles delivered previously to*
9 *such payment: Provided, That it shall be lawful to make*
10 *such advances to the disbursing officers of the government*
11 *as may be necessary to the faithful and prompt discharge of*
12 *their respective duties, and to the fulfilment of the public en-*
13 *gagements: And, provided, also, That the President of the*
14 *United States may direct such advances, as he may deem ne-*

15 cessary and proper, to such persons in the military and naval
16 service as may be employed on distant stations, where the
17 discharge of the pay and emoluments to which they may be
18 entitled, cannot be regularly effected.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That every officer or
2 agent of the United States, who shall receive public money
3 which he is not authorized to retain, as salary, pay, or emolu-
4 ment, shall render his accounts quarter-yearly, to the proper
5 accounting officers of the Treasury, with the vouchers neces-
6 sary to the correct and prompt settlement thereof, within
7 three months after the expiration of each successive quarter,
8 if resident within the United States; and within six months,
9 if resident in a foreign country.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That every officer or
2 agent of the United States, who shall offend against the pro-
3 visions of the preceding sections, shall, by the officer charg-
4 ed with the direction of the department to which such offend-
5 ing officer is responsible, be promptly reported to the Presi-
6 dent of the United States, and dismissed from the public
7 service.